

G & M Ranches
George & Margie LaGrande
4186 LaGrande Rd
Williams, Ca 95987

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JUL 01 1998

June 29, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Comments on draft EIR/EIS

Dear Mr. Snow:

In addition to being cattle producers, my husband and I are partners in diversified farming operation in the Northern California area. On behalf of my husband and myself, I would like to submit the following comments.

1. Water Rights

Water rights are very precious to the agriculture industry. Many families have rights going back hundreds of years, as they are part of the property rights bundle. Families depend on these water rights as an integral part of their operations. It is extremely important that these rights are respected and strengthened, not used as part of the solution. The government's long-standing promise to protect everyone's water rights as well as the regions where water originates must be honored.

2. Storage

Increased storage capacity must be part of the solution. The fact is California has a shortage of water and the only way to solve it is to create new sources. Taking water from one person and giving it to someone else is not a solution; it only creates another problem. The possibility of new dams, off site storage and the possibility of raising Shasta Dam must be looked as part of the solution. The needs of the environment and the population can not be met without new sources. The costs of these new supplies must be shared fairly

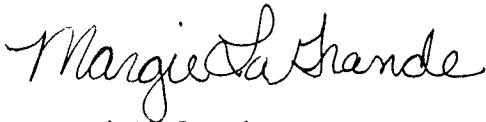
3. California's Budget

Governor Wilson added an item to California's budget; he designated \$10 million to study the water shortage problem. This is extremely important in the development of new water sources. Keep this money in the budget!

4. Conversion of Agricultural Land

The conversion of ag land may seem like a simple solution. I warn it will only be short term. The long-term ramifications will be serious. California Agriculture feeds the world, resulting in 1 one of every 12 jobs in the state. Converting farmland would create further hardship on rural areas whose livelihood revolves around agriculture. Cal-Fed must not base it's solutions on the redirection of agricultural water or the conversion of farmland. We want Cal-Fed to succeed, but we won't accept solutions that don't benefit agriculture in our region and statewide.

Sincerely,



Margie LaGrande

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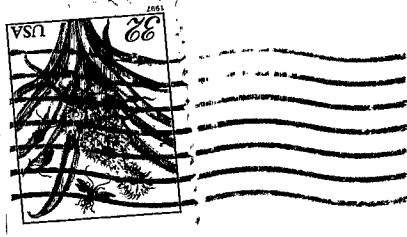
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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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